



**STATE OF HAWAII  
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TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2145  
RELATING TO VACANCIES

February 6, 2018

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2145. The purpose of this bill is to amend the deadlines for filing nomination papers, nominations, and notifications of the chief election officer with respect to a vacancy in the state senate.

This housekeeping bill is necessary because of the change in date of the primary election in 2010. Currently, the statute allows a vacancy to occur on the sixtieth day prior to the primary election which is after the close of candidate filing. As such, a candidate who filed for a different office would not be eligible to fill the vacancy. This bill ensures the timeline of a vacancy for state senate coincides with the candidate filing deadline to allow any qualified individual to file a nomination paper to fill the vacancy. Candidates for office would have timely notice to consider or withdraw a nomination paper for a different office, and file a nomination paper for the vacancy within a designated ten-day candidate filing period.

Additionally, this bill ensures compliance with the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) by amending the deadline to submit candidates if a vacancy occurs prior to the general election to coincide with the deadline to submit ballot questions. The deadline to submit ballot questions is the seventy-fifth day prior to the general election.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2145.

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 6:00:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/6/2018 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

There is no real reason to keep amending the required law to accommodate candidates unless we find ourselves in dire straits.